Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I beg to move that a Select Committee consisting of the following Hon'ble Members may be requested to report on the Bill.

(1) Mr. M. Krishna Menon, (2) Mr. P. Krishna Menon,
(3) Dr. A. R. Menon, (4) Mr. A. Eachara Menon,
(5) Mr. Joseph Pettah, (6) Mr. P. C. Varkey,
(7) Mr. T. K. Nayar, (8) Mr. P. Neelakanta Menon,
and (9) The Government Advocate.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

President.—The Committee is to report within a month and the Government Advocate and Law Officer will be the Chairman of the Committee.

The Criminal Procedure Code Amendment Bill.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Sir, I rise to move that the Bill to amend the Code of Criminal Procedure be read in Council. I may explain the object of this Bill which certainly cannot be considered to be a controversial one. Under the existing section 171 of the Code of Criminal Procedure the Additional Sessions Judge shall try such cases only as the Government may by general or special order direct him to buy. The amendment is introduced with the object of conferring on the Chief Court also the power of transferring cases to additional Sessions Judges. The power as it exists now rests only with the Government to transfer cases to the additional Sessions Judges. It has been brought to the notice of the Government that the Chief Court also should be given such power. I may also bring to the Notice of the Hon'ble Members that in the corresponding section of the British Code of Criminal Procedure the powers rest both with the Government and with the Sessions Judges. Here the only difference made is instead of the Sessions Judges the power is conferred on the Chief Court. I therefore move that the Bill be read in Council.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Mr. A. Sivarama Menon.—May I know the corresponding British section?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—Section 193 (2). It reads thus:- "Additional Sessions Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges shall try such cases only as the Local Government by general or special order may direct them to try, or as the Sessions

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Judge of the division, by general or special order, may make over to them for trial".

Motion put and carried.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I rise to move that the Bill may be taken up for consideration at once suspending the Standing Order.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—As the Chief Court is theoretically and practically responsible for the conduct of the work in the subordinate Courts, why should not they themselves be authorised to do this leaving out the Government?

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—A bill to amend the existing law on that point is not now before us. I do not think that the course suggested is practical. There may arise cases which, in the opinion of the Government, may have to be transferred from one Sessions Judge to another. It is only a reserve power. What is now attempted is only a delegation of the Government's power to the Chief Court. They do not want to abolish their existing power.

Motion put and carried.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I now move that the Bill may be taken up and passed at the next meeting.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—I second it.

Motion put and carried.

Resolutions.

1. Remission of the Second Crop Assessment—(contd.)

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—Sir, this resolution will be readily accepted by the Government because the request contained in the resolution is to remit the land revenue on occasional double crop lands. Double crops are generally raised in high level places which in ordinary circumstances will be dried up. Now that there was no rain and since the Diwan Peishkar has already promised that the case of these fields will be considered specially there is no use of speaking anything about it. With regard to the permanent double crop lands also the Diwan Peishkar promised to give cent per cent reduction provided the lands have been dried up. Our request also is that these two classes of lands should have some remission provided we do not

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